

NICD-B seeks to enlighten the world on the needs of deaf-blind children

"... there is a brightness within my soul that words can never trace. I call it Life, and laugh with its delight, though life itself be out of sound and sight."

—Dr. Robert J. Smithdas, associate director of the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults, and deaf and blind since age 4.

Being counted among the 4.5 million handicapping conditions, deaf-blind youngsters, who make up only one-tenth of one percent of that number, have been all but overlooked by educators and other professional service groups.

Efforts to increase awareness about the needs of that population are now being made by the National Information Center on Deaf-Blindness (NICD-B), established at Gallaudet in July 1987, through a \$300,000 Department of Education grant.

NICD-B, part of Programs in Adult and Continuing Education (PACE), a unit of the College for Continuing Education, provides information to assist the 5,440 deaf-blind children and youth who have been identified in the United States and its territories. The office has materials on the causes of the disability, and information about leisure activities, educational tools, and support groups that are available.

According to Dr. Jeanne Marquis, NICD-B's educational resource coordinator, the three-member staff interacts with educators, professional groups, and parents to identify and locate information relating to deaf-blindness. The staff also maintains a computerized database on local, regional, and national resources.

Federal legislation defines deaf blind-

ness related to the educational needs of children, as "... [having] auditory and visual impairments, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational problems that they cannot properly be accommodated in special education programs solely for the hearing impaired child or the visually impaired child."

But the children who fall into this category can be educated and lead productive lives. The most important task is to identify their needs and find the proper resources for them. However, identification is not always easy.

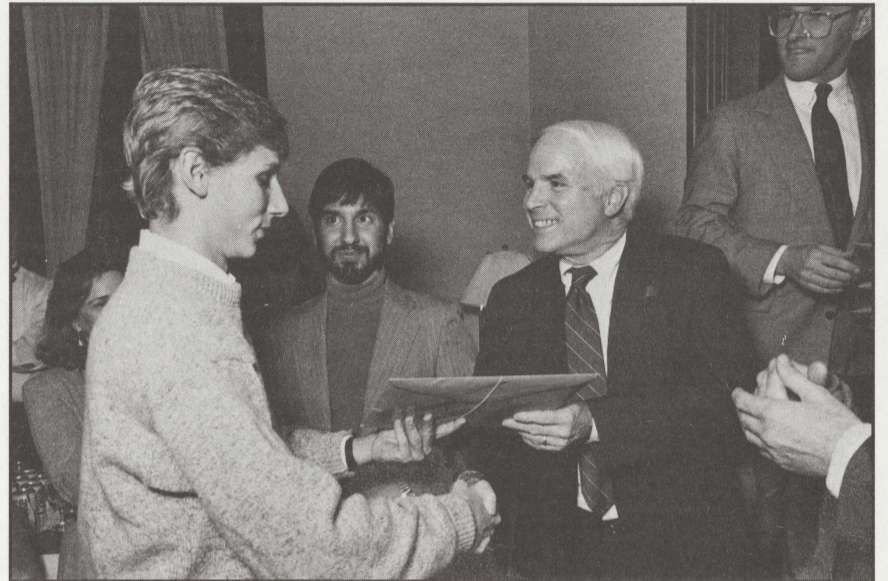
One of the most common forms of deaf-blindness, often difficult to detect, is Usher's Syndrome, a congenital disease in which children who are born deaf progressively lose their sight as they mature. Because the progression is usually very slow, it is often not diagnosed until later in the person's life.

Besides Usher's, in most of the other conditions in which deafness and blindness coexist, there are other handicapping conditions as well, frequently including mental retardation.

"One of our goals is to help schools for the deaf, as well as other schools [serving deaf students], realize that many—up to 5-to-6 percent—of their students have Usher's Syndrome, even though it may not have been diagnosed," said Marquis.

Because their sight is steadily deteriorating, these children may seem accident-prone, be uncoordinated, and appear aloof to their peers, when all the while they are being affected by a

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Sen. John McCain III (R-Ariz.) presents Student Body Government President Greg Hlibok with a letter from President Reagan commending the signing of the Telecommunications Accessibility Enhancement Act of 1988, at a House One reception Dec. 6 for McCain and Rep. Steve Gunderson (R-Wisc., right rear), recognizing their support for the bill.

Police investigation leads to recovery of merchandise stolen from campus

An investigation by the University's Department of Safety and Security (DOSS), spurred by the apprehension of four burglars taking merchandise from the Accounting Office early Nov. 20, has resulted in the recovery of more than \$10,000 in property stolen during a spree of campus burglaries.

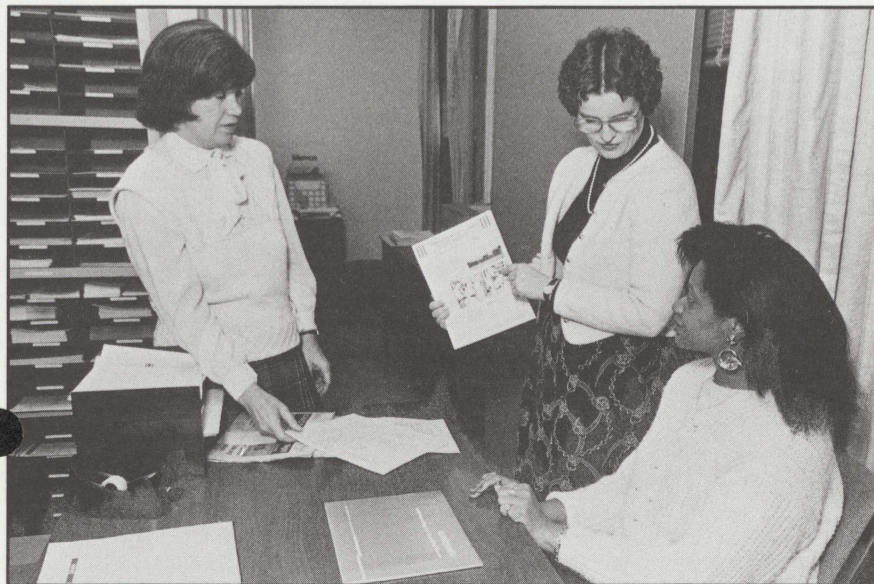
DOSS Director Herbert Emerson said that when investigators questioned them the day after the attempted burglary, the suspects—two Gallaudet students and two former students—admitted to participating in a number of burglaries in College Hall and the West

Office Building in November. Emerson declined to name the suspects.

The suspects were apprehended by campus police who responded to a report of a burglary in process in College Hall. Police found that entry to the building had apparently been gained by forcing the lock on the front door. Once inside, police found the suspects in Room 8 with plastic bags containing TDDs, telephones, and other office equipment.

During the subsequent questioning, Emerson said that the suspects gave

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NICD-B staff (from left) Earlene Duncan, Jeanne Marquis, and Marianne Carr review informational material relating to deaf-blindness in children.

Gallaudet exceeds campaign goal

Gallaudet's 1988 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), which ran from Oct. 24 through mid-November, exceeded its goal of \$28,000 by more than \$9,000.

According to LaVarne Hines, vice chairwoman of the campaign, 341 members of the Gallaudet community contributed \$37,247.38 by the end of the campaign.

It was a dramatic increase over the amount given last year, when the University fell short of its \$28,000 goal by about 30 percent.

Donations to the CFC are used to support almost 800 charitable organizations that rely on donations raised by federal and federally-supported institutions to carry on their efforts.

The success of this year's campaign can be attributed to a renewed spirit of

staff and faculty and the endorsement of the administration, said Hines. "I believe that the staff and faculty recognize that our communities are being plagued with so many social problems and feel that supporting the agencies and programs that are recipients of CFC contributions is one way of ensuring that the necessary services can continue to be administered in our communities," she added.

The theme of this year's campaign was "Someone is Waiting for You to Make a Difference." Hines expressed thanks to the campus community for its generosity, and especially to coordinators and keyworkers who accepted the responsibility of soliciting pledges and contributions from their colleagues. "They can be assured that the contributions will make a difference in the community," she said.

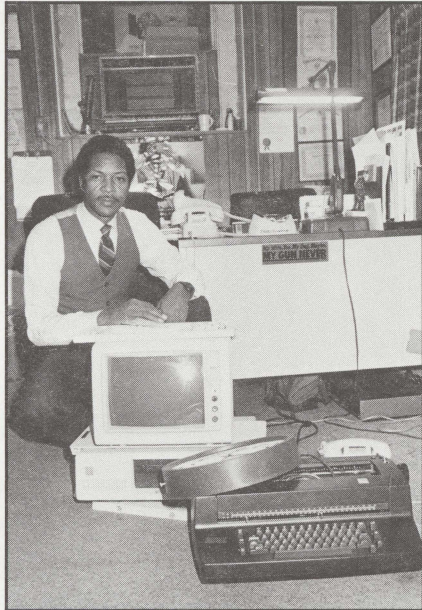
Burglaries solved

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the campus police information that led them to a cache of stolen goods in a campus dormitory room and at an off-campus location. The items recovered included a microwave oven, refrigerator, antique sofa, complete IBM personal computer system with printer, an electric typewriter, and several TDDs and telephones.

Most of the merchandise has been returned to the owners, Emerson said. The students appeared before the Residence Life Judicial Board for disciplinary action on Dec. 1. The former students have been barred from campus.

Emerson said that the matter is still under investigation with the hope that information concerning other campus thefts may be obtained.



DOSS investigator Wylie Myers takes an inventory of recovered stolen items that have not been returned to their owners.

Announcements

International Student Services is seeking people to house international students during the winter break and/or invite students for a holiday dinner. If you can help, please call the Office of International Student Services, x5256 or stop by Ely Center, Room 124.

Open season for the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) has begun and continues through Jan. 31, 1989. Employees hired Jan. 1-June 30, 1988, are eligible to participate for the first time. Employees hired before Jan. 1, 1988, may start, stop, or change their contributions. For more information and forms, contact Elaine Vance at x5111 or in College Hall, Room 13B or 7.

The Gallaudet University Alumni Association's D.C. Chapter will hold its regular meeting and holiday party program on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 6:30 p.m. in "Ole Jim." The cash bar will open at 5:30 p.m., and all are welcome to drink, eat cheese and crackers, and sing carols.

The winter break holiday for Gallaudet employees will occur Sunday, Dec. 25 through Monday, Jan. 2, 1989, (because New Year's Day falls on Sunday). All regularly scheduled working days during this time will be considered holidays. Employees will return to work on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

The Merrill Learning Center will open during the holiday season from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15, through Thursday, Dec. 22. On Friday, Dec. 23, the center will open at 8 a.m., but its closing time has not yet been determined. The center will remain closed Saturday, Dec. 24, through Monday, Jan. 2, and will reopen from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3 through Sunday, Jan. 15. The library will close again on Monday, Jan. 16, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

The Department of Sign Communication will offer a course in Swedish sign language next spring on Thursdays from 2-4 p.m., taught by Cheryl Lundquist. Interested students must have signing skills and permission of Dr. Mike Kemp, chairman of the department. Enrollment is limited.

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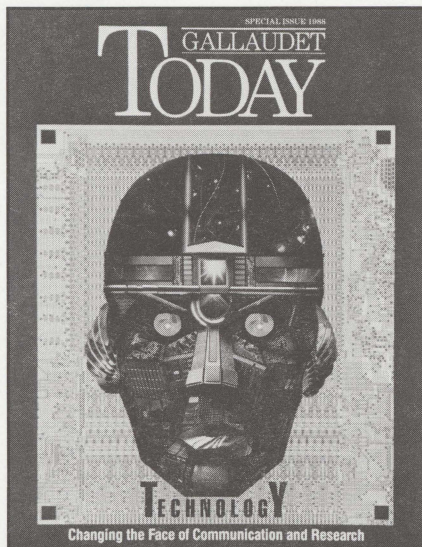
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A poster of deaf artist Jan Skrobisz' cover for Gallaudet Today's 1988 special technology issue is on sale for \$1.50. To order, call Publications and Production, x5154.

Year-end checks ready on Dec. 22

Gallaudet employees will be able to pick up their last paycheck of 1988 on Dec. 22 this year, before the winter break begins.

The last pay date in calendar year 1988 is Dec. 27. Because the University will be closed for the winter break from Dec. 26 through Jan. 2, 1989, the Controller's Office has adjusted its schedules to assure completion of the Dec. 27 payroll prior to winter break.

Although the paychecks will not be payable until Dec. 27, they can be picked up at the Cashier's Office, College Hall Room B-11, on Thursday, Dec. 22.

Employees who will not be on campus that day can request that their checks be mailed to their homes. Forms for this mailing service will be enclosed with the Dec. 13 paychecks and also will be available at the Cashier's Office. Employees who use the direct deposit service will not be affected by the winter break closing.

Classified Ads

CLASSIFIED ADS are printed free as a service to Gallaudet faculty and staff. They must be submitted in writing only to *On the Green*, MSSD, Room G-19B. Ads may be run for a maximum of two weeks, if requested and if space permits. The deadline for submitting advertisements is Friday, 10 days before the desired publication. Because of the winter break, ads received by Wednesday, Dec. 21, will appear in the Jan. 9 issue.

WANTED: Nonsmoking female to share 2-BR apt. in Silver Spring, Md., priv. room & bath, AC, pool, sauna, 24-hr. sec., \$355/mo. inc. util. Call Joan, x5488.

FOR SALE: Scan teak twin bed and headboard w/drawer under bed, nightstand & bookcase, \$150. Call x5606.

FOR SALE: Packard/Bell 14 in. EGA Monitor for IBM or compatible, never used, \$275. Call Gloria, x5603.

WANTED: Roommate, mature prof. to share 2-BR apt. in Laurel, Md., no pets, \$250/mo. Call David A., x5221 (V) or x5227 (TDD).

WANTED: Mature female nonsmoker to share 2-BR, 2 bath luxury apt., pool, walking distance to Brookland Metro, sec. deposit required, \$250/mo. plus elec. Call Gerry or Vicki, 547-1209 (TDD).

WANTED: Nonsmoking roommate to share fully-furnished, 2-BR condo on Capitol Hill, mod. kitchen, microwave, W/D, AC, fireplace, priv. patio, rooftop deck, cable TV, VCR, near bus and Metro, available Dec. 15 or Jan. 1, rent neg. Call 547-5081 (TDD).

WANTED: Nonsmoking female (deaf or hearing prof.) for priv. BR (share bath, AC, W/D, DW), prefer Total Communication, near Union Station, \$177/mo. plus 1/5 util. Call Dora, 546-0634 (TDD) evens.

WANTED: Nonsmoking, mature male student or prof. for large BR on W. Va. Ave. NE (share bath, DW, W/D), free local phone, \$175/mo. inc. util., deposit required. Write Tom, Campus Mail Box 969.

FOR SALE: Holiday Spa gold membership, take over payments of \$60/mo. for 2 1/2

Material provided on deaf-blindness

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disease of which they and those who are close to them are unaware.

"We're pushing to have every child in a hearing impaired program in the U.S. screened" to identify undiagnosed cases of Usher's Syndrome, Marquis said.

It is also crucial for schools who have students with the disease to take the extra effort to make their programs adapted to help them learn, added Earlene Duncan, NICD-B's information specialist and the primary author of a new book: *Usher's Syndrome: What it is, how to cope, and how to help.*

Although NICD-B is a young organization, it has taken a number of steps to heighten the public's awareness and sensitivity toward deaf-blindness. So far, it has developed a brochure, organized workshops, and sent out more than 1,000 packets of information.

On Dec. 6 and 7, NICD-B hosted an information seminar on the Gallaudet campus and at the Washington Hilton for federal project directors of deaf-blind programs throughout the nation. In January, the group will host the initial meeting of a task force consisting of deaf-blind consumers, professionals, engineers, and technicians working in the field, which was formed to define the needs of deaf-blind people.

yr., includes racquetball, weightlifting, everything, at any location. Call Glenda Ennis, x5375.

FOR SALE: '76 Volkswagon Superbeetle Convertible, fuel injection, rebuilt engine, several new parts, good cond., \$4,900/BO. Call Barbara, 937-5281 (TDD) or P.O. Box 717.

FOR SALE: Frost-free refrigerator, 18.6 cu. ft., 4 yrs. old, \$195. Call x5458 (TDD).

FOR SALE: 2 new men's leather Seiko watches, \$90 each. Contact P.O. Box 883 or 547-5081 (TDD).

FOR RENT: 2-BR townhouse w/1 1/2 bath, W/D, CAC, ceiling fans, 1/2 mi. to park/ride lot, ready in Dec. Call Dale, 725-6769 (TDD).

FOR RENT: 2-BR, 1-bath condo in Wheaton/Silver Spring, Md., w/w carpet, fireplace, W/D, DW, security, pool, all curtains included, quiet street, near transportation and shopping. Call 697-6770 (TDD) or 338-1854 (TDD) evens.

WANTED: Nonsmoking female to help deaf family w/errands, babysit occasional evens., and help on weekends, in exchange for full room & most of board in Silver Spring, Md. Must have car, no pets. Call Lin, x5260.

Job Openings

Some of the advertised positions may already be filled. The list below includes only new staff and faculty openings and does not represent all jobs available. To get a recorded message describing the complete list, call x5358 or x5359 (TDD).

TEACHER CERTIFICATION CLERK:

Council on Education of the Deaf

HEAD SOCCER COACH: Athletics

ASSISTANT SOCCER COACH: Athletics

ASSISTANT BASEBALL COACH: Athletics

FACULTY: Foreign Languages